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Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 PRS-01 SS-15
OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 H-01 /061 R

DRAFTED BY L/HR:JJOHNSON:SMH
APPROVED BY L/HR:CRUNYON
AF/S - MR. TIERNEY (DRAFT)
L/AF - MS. VERVILLE (DRAFT)
D/HA - MS. BOVA (DRAFT)
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P 222010Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145099

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, PORS

SUBJECT: VAN ROOYEN COMMISSION

1. THE LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW HAS BROUGHT TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION THE FINDINGS OF A RECENTLY APPOINTED COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. CHAIRED BY PROFESSOR IZAK VAN ROOYEN, THE COMMISSION URGES NEW CONTROLS OVER FUNDS SOLICITED FROM OVERSEAS USED TO COVER THE LEGAL DEFENSE COSTS OF TRIALS IN SOUTH AFRICA. ACCORDING TO A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ENTITLED "SLAP CLAMPS ON FUNDS FROM ABROAD", THE COMMISSION'S 334 PAGE REPORT URGES
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THAT PARLIAMENT ADOPT MEASURES THAT WILL PLACE CONTROLS OVER VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS SENT FROM ABROAD TO COVER LEGAL DEFENSE COSTS IN SECURITY TRIALS. IN A PARALLEL ARTICLE OF 5/24/77, ENTITLED "SECURITY TRIALS", IT IS STATED THAT THE COMMISSION'S REPORT ASSERTS THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF MONEY FROM OVERSEAS FOR TRIALS WHERE NATIONAL SECURITY IS INVOLVED IS UNDESIRABLE. THE REPORT

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CITES AS AN EXAMPLE THE SASO/BPC TRIAL WHERE R25,000 A MONTH WAS BEING PAID FROM FOREIGN SOURCES.

2. A THIRD ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE HAS RECEIVED FOREIGN MONEY INDIRECTLY FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THAT THESE FUNDS

WERE USED NOT SOLELY FOR CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE PURPOSES BUT FOR THE STUDY PROJECT ON CHRISTIANITY IN APARTHEID SOCIETY. THE ARTICLE IS AMBIGUOUS AS TO WHETHER THIS ALLEGATION RELATES TO EVENTS BEFORE OR AFTER THE AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS ACT. THE VAN ROOYEN COMMISSION ASSERTS THAT EFFECTIVE CONTROLS HAVE TO BE PLACED OVER THE CANVASSING OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES.

3. THE LAWYER'S COMMITTEE AND CHURCH OFFICIALS ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED WITH POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS. THERE IS ALSO AN INTEREST IN CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERS. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS FULLEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION. IN PARTICULAR WE SHALL NEED BY AIR POUCH, A TEXT OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT, ANY RELEVANT MATERIAL FOUND IN HANSARD'S HOUSE ASSEMBLY DEBATES, AND ANY OTHER USEFUL COMMENTS. NATURALLY A TRANSLATION IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IF AVAILABLE WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.

4. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING OF ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATED TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FROM EMBASSY'S EXCELLENT AND RELIABLE SOURCES IN THE LEGAL, RELIGIOUS AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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SAS ID: 2068583
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Subject: VAN ROOYEN COMMISSION
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, PORS, VAN ROOYEN COMMISSION, LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
To: PRETORIA
Type: TE
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